

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on January 5, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have editorially amended the specification, amended claims 1, 4, 7 and 10, canceled claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9, and added new claims 11 through 22. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 are the independent claims, and claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 through 22 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner's Action has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 under 35 USC Section 102(b) as being anticipated by *Mori et al.* (USP 6,268,904). It is submitted this rejection has been rendered moot since claims 1, 4 and 7 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 3, 6 and 9, respectively, which were not rejected under 35 USC Section 102(b).

The Examiner's Action has rejected claims 3, 6, 9 and 10 under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being obvious in view of *Mori et al.* Since claims 3, 6 and 9 have been canceled, and their subject matter amended into independent claims 1, 4 and 7, respectively, Applicants will treat this rejection as pertaining to all of the

pending claims. It is submitted that these claims are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 each includes recitations to a shape of a self-cleaning transmittable plate. The self-cleaning transmittable plate according to claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 has a lens-shaped convex or concave portion on one surface thereof. Further, the self-cleaning transmittable plate has bracelet-shaped convex or concave lenses concentrically arranged on the other surface thereof. The self-cleaning transmittable plate has the advantages described in page 18, lines 21-27 and page 19, lines 17-23, for example.

In contrast, *Mori et al.* do not disclose or suggest the above features at all. *Mori et al.* disclose a diffusion plate 72 having a flat surface on one of its surfaces, and a pattern etched surface 72s on the other of its surfaces. See Figs. 7-10 and from column 10, line 53 to column 11, line 11. Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion from this reference that the flat surface of the diffusion plate 72 can include a lens-shaped convex or concave portion, as recited by Applicants' claims. Although other embodiments of *Mori et al.* show an optical member 216, which includes a concave portion (see Figure 16), there is absolutely no suggestion from this reference that the features of the optical member 216 can be combined with the diffusion plate 72.

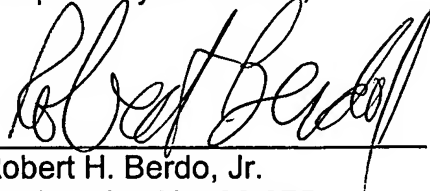
Moreover, the diffusion plate 72 is only disclosed as having a pattern 72s etched in a surface thereof, with the pattern 72s being periodic, such as a diffraction grating, or random. However, there is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion from this reference that the pattern 72s can be concentrically arranged bracelet-shaped convex or concave lenses, as recited in Applicants' claims. It is noted that a diffraction grating, as disclosed by the cited reference, is typically defined as consisting of a large number of equally spaced parallel lines. Such a configuration can hardly be considered as being bracelet-shaped, much less being comprised of a plurality of concentrically arranged bracelet-shaped convex or concave lenses, as recited in Applicants' claims.

As such, it is submitted that the Action has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against the claims, and it is thus requested that this rejection be withdrawn, and that these claims be allowed.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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